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HODEL TELLS IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE "WE CAN PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND HAVE DEVELOPMENT"

In a "State of the Interior Department" speech today to the Izaak Walton League's International Conference on Outdoor Ethics, Secretary of the Interior Don Hodel said, "America does not have to choose between development and protection of the environment -- we can have both." Hodel also presented a long list of the Interior Department's accomplishments during the Reagan Administration in the areas of conservation, the environment and recreation.

Speaking to the conference attendees in Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri, Hodel pointed out that the Reagan Administration has "permitted development while remaining steadfast in our commitment to conservation and the environment. We have not tried to force an either/or situation on the American people. In many cases, we have proven that we can have both. We do not have to choose!"

Hodel noted that the goals of seeking balance and doing what is right as the steward of America's natural resources are complex. "Since taking the job of Secretary of the Interior in 1985, I have tried to chart a balanced course -- remaining committed to the protection of our natural and cultural resources while also realizing that I am mandated to approve some development in order to achieve economic opportunities for Americans."

Hodel described two examples of the Administration's philosophy both involving species protected under the Endangered Species Act. In the case of the recovery program of the California Sea Otter, Hodel said, "We were determined to work toward the recovery of the sea otter, but we were equally determined that we try to avoid interfering with the livelihoods of fishermen in doing so." As a result, an exhaustive study was conducted and extensive consultations took place with the Congress, the commercial fishing industry and other constituent groups on the need to diversify the sea otter population. A second sea otter colony has been established in a new location relatively free of pollution, containing an abundance of food and, importantly, amounting to less than one percent of California's total commercial fishing revenues.

(more)

Hodel also told his audience about the Concho Water Snake, a threatened water species that threatened to hold up a \$68 million water project in West Texas. Hodel said, "Economic factors could not be part of our decision to list or not list the snake as endangered. We were determined that we not lose a member of our Nation's wildlife family and a component of the Colorado River's ecosystem."

However, Hodel added, "We looked for ways that would enable us not to kill a very important social and economic initiative." Ultimately, groundbreaking for the dam project began earlier this year, and the Colorado River Municipal Water District agreed to fund \$3.7 million in activities designed to protect the Concho Water Snake.

Hodel introduced a list of the Interior Department's accomplishments during the Reagan Administration in the areas of conservation, the environment and recreation. Hodel specifically mentioned the following accomplishments:

- 29 wildlife refuges have been added to the National Wildlife Refuge System containing more than 500,000 acres in 21 states.
- Approximately two million acres of Interior Department lands have been added to the Wilderness Preservation System.
- We have added 200 plants and species to the endangered and threatened list. But rather than simply listing plants and animals as endangered or threatened, the Reagan Administration has put a new emphasis on developing recovery plans -- over 175 since 1981.
- We have recognized increasing public recreation needs and added or expanded hunting and fishing activities on more than 85 wildlife refuges.
- We supported addition of the first "park" as distinguished from national monuments, recreation areas and urban parks to the National Park System in 15 years -- the 75,000 acre Great Basin National Park in Nevada -- once it was proposed at its current size. We also support, in principle, the addition of the Tall Grass Prairie National Park in Oklahoma.
- In the first four years of this Administration, we completed a \$1 billion program to restore and improve public facilities in our National Parks.

Hodel also asked the Izaak Walton League to help spread the message of "Take Pride in America," a public awareness campaign to encourage the wise use of the Nation's natural and cultural resources.

"Take Pride in America is a nationwide call to action, a message in which there is no debate and no controversy. It is an opportunity for groups of private citizens like yourselves to join with federal and state agencies in a partnership that has one objective -- to promote the wise use of our public lands and their natural and cultural resources," Hodel said.

A text of the Secretary's remarks and an expanded list of the accomplishments of the Interior Department during the Reagan Administration are attached.

*Prepared Remarks of Secretary of the Interior Don Hodel
to the Izaak Walton League International Conference on Outdoor Ethics
Lake Ozark, Missouri
November 9, 1987*

Take Pride in America: Ideas That Work

I am excited and enthusiastic about this opportunity to address the Izaak Walton League's International Conference on Outdoor Ethics. The Izaak Walton League and its membership have played an impressive leadership role in our nation's history -- fighting for clean water, improved wildlife habitat and outdoor ethics for hunters and fishermen. Your program of outdoor stewardship shares a common objective with the Take Pride in America campaign, which President Reagan began last year to encourage Americans to use more wisely the natural and cultural resources that we value so much as a nation. I will be discussing the campaign a little later.

The Izaak Walton League's leadership has touched many of our lives, including my own. My father joined up with the Izaak Walton League when I was a teenager to oppose a Corps of Engineers project that would have turned a 29-mile-long river on which my family lived into a 14-mile concrete-lined ditch for rushing flood water from our homes and fields. I remember sitting in public meetings with my father as he argued that the Corps could not place a \$10 per barrel value on the fish the project would eliminate. With the help of the Izaak Walton League and others -- but without the environmental laws of today -- my father showed there were cheaper and better ways of achieving the Corps' goals. The Corps of Engineers, which admittedly was very helpful in supplying information requested by my father, ended up withdrawing its proposal. I tell this story to show my personal awareness of the Izaak Walton League's proud history of balance and of seeking to do what's right in the area of outdoor ethics -- whether it's working to protect fish and water or to encourage hunter education.

Doing what's right is something about which Ronald Reagan has been adamant. In cabinet meetings I have heard the President interrupt a presentation by saying, "You're talking politics. I want to know what you think is right."

Balance and doing what's right at the Interior Department are complex goals. Perceptions may diverge from reality. Cecil Andrus, President Carter's Secretary of the Interior, was perceived -- incorrectly -- as being 100 percent preservationist. Secretary Watt, on the other hand, was inaccurately perceived as being 100 percent pro-development. Since taking this job in 1985, I have tried to chart a balanced course -- remaining committed to the protection of our natural and cultural resources while also realizing that I am mandated to approve some development in order to achieve economic opportunities for Americans and to contribute to our national security. Some people appear to believe these commitments are inconsistent. I do not.

During my tenure as Secretary, I have grown a little frustrated at what appears to be a misperception on the part of some people about the Interior Department's accomplishments during this Administration in the areas of conservation, the environment and recreation. Although I have attached to the text of my speech a long list of these accomplishments, let me just mention a few. During this Administration:

- O 29 wildlife refuges have been added to the National Wildlife Refuge System containing more than 500,000 acres in 21 states.
- O Approximately two million acres of Interior Department lands have been added to the Wilderness Preservation System. Another seven million acres of U.S. Forest Service land have been added.

- We have added more than 200 plant and animal species to the endangered and threatened list. But rather than simply listing plants and animals as endangered or threatened, this Administration has put a new emphasis on developing recovery plans -- over 175 since 1981.
- We have added or expanded recreational hunting and fishing activities on more than 85 wildlife refuges.
- We supported addition of the first "park" (as distinguished from national monuments, recreation areas and urban parks) to the National Park System in 15 years -- the 75,000 acre Great Basin National Park in Nevada -- once it was proposed at its current size. We also support, in principle, the addition of the Tall Grass Prairie National Park in Oklahoma.
- In the first four years of this Administration, we completed a \$1 billion program to restore and improve public facilities in our National Parks.
- Individuals and citizen groups have volunteered millions of hours worth many tens of millions of dollars in our national parks, refuges, fisheries and public lands as part of an Administration initiative to get Americans involved. Many of you are among those who have volunteered valuable time and talents.

These are just a few of the accomplishments within the Interior Department during this Administration. But unless you are an economist or an accountant or a biologist, these statistics are virtually meaningless. What do they mean in terms that we can relate to -- what do they mean to us as humans and to the land, waters, wildlife and history we cherish?

From those facts and statistics, I would like to humanize our accomplishments by presenting a few examples of how we have permitted development while remaining steadfast in our commitment to conservation and the environment. We have tried not to force an either/or situation on the American people. In many cases, we have proven that we can have both. We do not have to choose!

Saving the Sea Otter While Minimizing the Impact on Commercial Fishing

The California Sea Otter, which once numbered as many as 16,000-20,000, was hunted to virtual extinction in the 18th and 19th Centuries. A small remnant population survived and we have been nursing them back ever since. Last spring, the only remaining colony of California sea otters lived along a stretch of the central California coast. They numbered 1,650.

We've all seen television programs and books featuring the California Sea Otter. It is very satisfying to watch these curious creatures playing among the waves, rolling over in beds of thick sea kelp and cracking open sea urchins and abalone on their stomachs. But experts in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reminded us that the sea otter remained a severely threatened animal. Its numbers are not great, and for many years it has existed in only one colony -- only one location. We had all our eggs in one basket. The sea otter faced possible annihilation by destructive natural and man-made events.

A 1982 Fish and Wildlife recovery plan for the sea otter called for Interior to establish at least one additional colony. Biologists told us that another population significantly would reduce the possibility of losing the colony and could enable the eventual removal of the sea otter from the list of threatened species.

In order to establish a second colony, we had to locate a suitable habitat for reintroduction of the sea otter. This sounds simple enough except that sea otters eat 25 percent of their weight in shellfish every day, and shellfish happen to be a cash crop for fishermen along the California coast.

We were determined to work toward the recovery of the sea otter, but we were equally determined that we try to avoid interfering with the livelihoods of fishermen in doing so. We conducted an environmental impact study, which took into account habitat, effect on the local economy and many other factors. In the meantime, we heard from constituent groups like Friends of the Sea Otter, who supported relocation; we heard from the oil industry, which was supportive because it saw the long-term importance of creating a second population; we worked with Congress, which passed an amendment to the Endangered Species Act authorizing the project; and we heard from the commercial fishing industry, which fought the relocation out of fear that it negatively would affect shellfish operations.

After an exhaustive study, we selected San Nicolas Island as the most appropriate habitat for the new sea otter colony. The island is located about 70 miles off the coast of Los Angeles, far-removed from other commercial shellfish grounds. It is relatively free of pollution, contains an abundance of food and -- importantly -- contributes less than one percent of California's total commercial fishing revenues. The commercial fishing industry, however, has continued to oppose relocation and has sought restraining orders, which the courts consistently have turned down.

We began relocating the otters in August. Approximately 50 now are enjoying their new home, and we plan for as many as 250 to be relocated in the next three to five years in order to establish a separate breeding colony.

There is one encouraging anecdote, which I don't believe has been reported. We sent the first group of otters to California's Monterey Bay Aquarium, where they were examined before being sent in kennels to San Nicolas Island. It was a long trip for otters -- who obviously are unaccustomed to traveling. The otters were supposed to remain in partially submerged pens for several days before being released, in order to acclimate themselves to the new surroundings. Two otters, however, were so anxious to reach their new homes that they escaped from the pens. The marine biologists held their breath along with some who worried about early criticism of the project. The worry was unnecessary, though. We soon spotted the two otters right where they were supposed to be, doing exactly what they were supposed to be doing -- frolicking among the waves and kelp, feeding on shellfish.

It is encouraging to know that we appear to have been able to protect both this unique species and the livelihoods of California fishermen. It was not an either/or choice. We were able to reintroduce the otter to a part of California it has not inhabited for 100 years. Because of this, the otter is further along the road to recovery than it has been since the 1700's. And, we were able to save the species without substantial interference with existing commercial interests.

The Concho Water Snake Versus Water for West Texas

One of the more interesting stories in the saga of protection versus development centers around the Concho water snake, a threatened species that threatened to hold up a \$68 million water project in West Texas. A dispute developed about a year ago when the Colorado River Municipal Water District proposed to construct a dam on the Colorado River to begin supplying desperately needed water to over half a million people. As you know, west Texas is one of the most arid regions of our country. Water is the life blood of homes, farms, ranches and industry. It was estimated that water shortages -- already a reality -- would become serious as early as 1990. There already was talk of a very expensive process for recycling waste water, which could have had disastrous economic consequences for the already modest economy of the area. The children and

grandchildren of families like Jerry White's — whom I will discuss later — would grow up under the threat of restricted water use and with less money for education and community improvement opportunities.

The price tag for a new reservoir that would meet the needs of west Texans through the year 2030 was set at \$68 million, all of which was to be privately financed. Another price tag, however, was the possible elimination of the only known population of Concho water snakes. Biologists told us that the snake would become extinct under the water project's plan because the shallow streams necessary for water snakes to reproduce would be flooded. The Fish and Wildlife Service was petitioned to list the Concho water snake as a threatened species in 1984. We listed the snake as threatened in December 1986 and then issued an opinion that construction of the dam would jeopardize the snake's survival. In effect, we halted the dam project to ensure that one of this nation's threatened species would not become one of its extinct species.

It was obvious long before we listed the snake as threatened that such a move probably would block the project. As a result, a grassroots campaign was organized to try to persuade us that the snake should not be listed.

We heard pros and cons. We heard from the water district, government and community leaders and conservation groups. We heard the obvious complaints about how a snake — which is not a highly revered creature most anywhere — should not prevent homes and ranches from getting water. A retired military man wrote in to express his opinion. He said: "Folks, we need water; we can't drink a snake." We heard from outdoorsmen and farmers and ranchers and businessmen who opposed putting a snake ahead of their future water supply.

But we also heard from families — genuinely concerned families — who needed the project and the opportunities it would bring. I mentioned Jerry White of Abilene, Texas. He wrote us to plead his case. He and his wife were concerned about the future of their children and grandchildren. Two hundred and fifty individuals signed a statement saying they had survived the droughts of the 1950's but wanted a better future for their families. They were, like many who wrote us, religious people who quoted Genesis: "God created Man and gave him dominion over the fish, the birds and all animals." Their point seemed to be that we should concern ourselves first with the future of man and then with the future of nature. But the statute does not provide for such a priority, nor does it allow any flexibility. Under the Act, endangered and threatened species are to be protected absolutely.

Economic statistics also supported those who wanted the project to proceed. An analysis of personal incomes indicated that the average citizen in the area would earn considerably more with the project than without it.

By law, though, economic factors could not be part of our decision to list or not to list the snake as threatened. We were determined that we not lose a member of our nation's wildlife family and a component of the river's ecosystem. But after the listing and the jeopardy opinion were issued, we looked for ways that would enable us not to kill a very important social and economic initiative.

Frank Dunkle -- who I understand will speak later today -- had just been confirmed as the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He had experience from his days in Colorado working through problems similar to this, where stream flow changes could affect wildlife. Frank began negotiations with the water district soon after the jeopardy opinion to see if the apparent dilemma could be solved.

I am pleased to report that he was successful. The water district agreed to do those things necessary to eliminate the need for a jeopardy opinion. They agreed to fund research on the snake

as well as create new habitat and rehabilitate the old. In all, the district agreed to fund \$3.7 million in activities designed to protect the Concho water snake.

This is a shining example of how we can have both -- preservation and development. Groundbreaking for the dam was held earlier this year, and it is reassuring to know that families like Jerry White's will now have access to the same economic opportunities that all Americans should enjoy. And somehow, I believe that the 250 citizens who quoted from the Bible will be reassured to know that water is on its way and that one of God's creatures is safe from extinction.

Multiple Use Areas: Enjoying Recreation While Permitting Wise Use of Resources

Let me turn now from our accomplishments as an Administration to our accomplishments as Americans. I pointed out earlier that thousands of Americans are donating millions of hours of their time and talent to improving our parks, refuges, fisheries and other public lands. Volunteers on multiple use public lands, in particular, have opened our eyes to new opportunities and have shown us that we can enjoy lands that are open to recreation, conservation and development.

Volunteers like Phyllis and Orville Kern are about as committed as one can be to the resources and recreation the Arizona desert provides. Phyllis and Orville are volunteer campground hosts during the winter at the Yuma District, a desert multiple use area run by the Bureau of Land Management. As campground hosts, the Kerns basically keep the recreation portion of the area open during the winter by greeting visitors at the entrance, explaining the rules and helping them enjoy the natural and cultural resources available in the Arizona desert. They've been doing this for the last 10 years.

They are not alone in their dedication. One evening, a member of my staff stopped at the recreation area entrance near Yuma, Arizona, and learned that one of the Kern's fellow volunteers — Marj Upton — had spent 18 hours manning the visitor center. Asked why she hadn't gone home to rest, Mrs. Upton said her volunteer replacement had called in sick. She wasn't about to go home and leave the visitor center without someone to greet newcomers. "I know what it's like to be a newcomer in a strange place," Mrs. Upton says. "Sometimes we have to spend 18 hours a day passing out information and answering questions but we want visitors to enjoy their stays." Now that's commitment. And in an era when we hear so much about selfishness and greed, it reminds us that this nation is richly blessed with human resources — people who care about others!

Like most multiple use areas, the Yuma District has areas used for recreation activities like camping, boating, skiing and fishing. But it also has areas used for oil exploration, collection of semi-precious stones and some private businesses centered around recreation. Some of the roads which make it possible for these visitors to reach exciting places in the Yuma District have been built as part of exploration and development activities. These developments help recreation by increasing access to public lands.

Multiple use management has opened areas like the Arizona desert to people like Marj Upton and Phyllis and Orville Kern, people who ordinarily would be deprived of enjoying the rich resources these areas provide. As a member of a group devoted to the conservation of the San Pedro River in Arizona told us, "multiple use management is the way to go." There are, however, single interest groups which appear to prefer that we restrict these multiple use areas; in effect, preventing Americans from experiencing the joys of "re-creating" among the natural and cultural resources that have made this nation the greatest in the world.

I am fond of saying that the word "recreation" has come to mean fun in this society, but the root word is *re-creation* and you and I and our fellow citizens are better for our ability to recreate and regenerate our spirits and return to whatever our other activities are, better because of it.

Multiple use areas have helped us make the point, again, that we do not have to choose either conservation or development. We can have both.

Take Pride in America: This Land is Your Land!

Despite our accomplishments and our efforts to make balanced decisions, conflict seems to be inevitable at the Interior Department.

One initiative, however, has drawn universal, enthusiastic support -- Take Pride in America. Take Pride in America, as many of you already know, is a public awareness campaign to encourage Americans to use more wisely the natural and cultural resources our public lands provide. The idea for Take Pride grew out of a question I was asked when testifying before a Senate committee. The questioner asked how, as Secretary of the Interior, I could prevent theft of petrified logs from a petrified forest? My answer was that there is no way that we can protect 700 million acres of public land if 240 million Americans don't care. There are not enough soldiers in the army or money in the Treasury. But I was not happy with that answer, because I believe that most Americans do care. I asked the staff in my office to offer ideas on how we could change attitudes and involve the public in the conservation of our federal, state and local public lands. The result was Take Pride in America.

The campaign's goals are:

- To increase awareness about the importance of wise and careful use of natural and cultural resources;
- To encourage an attitude of stewardship and personal responsibility for public lands and resources, and;
- To promote participation by individuals, organizations and communities in caring for our lands and resources.

The campaign is not a massive federal program, although many federal agencies are enthusiastic participants. Instead, we work through States and with the private sector to recognize and encourage all kinds of volunteer projects which highlight how all of us can Take Pride in America.

Let me just mention a few of the challenges to this nation the campaign is working to solve. The Interior Department estimates that a total of \$19 million per year is spent to cleanup public lands. The U.S. Forest Service estimates it spends \$2.5 million every year just to replace vandalized signs. We are told between 80 and 90 percent of the prehistoric ruins in the Southwest have been vandalized.

In his 1986 State of the Union message, President Reagan called on all Americans to "take pride in their outstanding public lands and historic sites." Since then, we have been encouraging Americans to organize community clean-ups; to adopt a park, river, lake or a trail; to organize local Take Pride coordinating committees; and to spread the word that these are our lands. We should pass them on to future generations better for our having been here.

In just a year, Take Pride in America grew from an idea into a solid, action-oriented partnership between federal agencies, the states and the private sector. We have enlisted the support of celebrities Charles Bronson, Clint Eastwood and Louis Gossett, Jr., each of whom is a spokesman in our national public service advertising campaign. The theme they are sending to millions of Americans is that "Bad guys abuse public lands. Good guys save them." Thanks to

the personal enthusiasm of Agriculture Secretary Dick Lyng, the popular country music group The Oak Ridge Boys has recorded the Take Pride in America theme song. Vice President Bush presented certificates this summer to the first Take Pride in America national award winners, finalists and semi-finalists. And, President Reagan honored the awardees in a Rose Garden ceremony at the White House.

A chapter of the Izaak Walton League was among those President Reagan honored. Although we consider all 540 of the projects that were nominated to be winners, 38 were selected to be recognized for their special relevance to the campaign's goals and for their effect on public lands and public awareness. The Memorial Chapter of the Izaak Walton League from Homewood, Illinois, was one of four civic and citizen organizations that received the National Take Pride Award. The Village of Homewood formed a partnership with the Ikes to launch a campaign to conserve 16 acres of natural prairie. They raised funds to preserve the natural beauty of the Homewood prairie so that the precious resources could be shared with everyone. More importantly, the Ikes involved themselves and their community in an effort to conserve the prairie that gave Illinois its slogan — "The Prairie State."

Take Pride in America is a nationwide call to action, a message in which there is no argument, no debate and no controversy. It is an opportunity for groups of private citizens like yourselves to join with federal and state agencies in a partnership that has one objective -- to promote the wise use of our public lands and their natural and cultural resources. The Izaak Walton League long has been a leader in this endeavor. But we invite your help in spreading the outdoor ethics message of Take Pride in America.

These lands truly are our lands — yours and mine, and those of our children. Along with that ownership comes the responsibility of stewardship. It is up to this generation of Americans to ensure that these lands also can be the lands of our future generations. With a message like Take Pride in America and the talents of an organization like the Izaak Walton League, I am confident that the future we face is a bright one. Thank you for this opportunity and God Bless You.

Interior Department Accomplishments: 1981-1987

The following are brief descriptions of the Interior Department's contributions in the areas of recreation, conservation and environment.

Wetlands/Waterfowl

- O **Emergency Wetlands Act.** The Reagan Administration has been firm in its commitment to preserve America's wetlands. The Administration's sustained effort to stem the alarming loss of wetlands took a giant step forward with passage of the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986. The Act -- which allows for refuge entrance fees, an increase in the price of the Duck Stamp and funding flexibility -- will make additional funds available for the acquisition and inclusion of wetlands into the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- O **International Wetlands Convention.** The Administration continued its commitment to the preservation of wetlands in 1987 when the United States joined in a 41-nation "Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat." The treaty's objective is to stem the growing loss of wetlands by promoting active wetlands conservation programs and by encouraging the sharing of technical and scientific information. Four U.S. wetlands have been designated under the treaty as "internationally significant."
- O **North American Waterfowl Management Plan.** This joint U.S.-Canadian plan outlines public and private strategies aimed at the conservation of waterfowl. The historic plan, signed in May 1986 by Interior Secretary Don Hodel and Canada's Environment Minister Thomas McMillan, identifies efforts needed between now and the year 2000 to protect U.S. and Canadian waterfowl habitat. It spells out actions to build up declining waterfowl populations and enhance waterfowl research and management.
- O **Ending Lead Poisoning in Waterfowl.** The Department of the Interior ended a bitter 10-year dispute among the States, environmentalists and hunters when it decided to

phase-in, by 1991, requirements that bird hunters use nontoxic shot pellets rather than lead shot. Waterfowl were dying of lead poisoning caused by swallowing spent lead shot pellets. It also was discovered that eagles and other birds of prey were dying of secondary lead poisoning from feeding on lead-infected waterfowl.

Fish and Wildlife

- O **Endangered Species Listings.** Although 200 plant and animal species have received the benefits of being placed on either the endangered or threatened list during this Administration, a new emphasis has been focused on developing recovery plans aimed at removing these plants and animals from the list. Since 1981, this Administration has completed more than 175 recovery plans. These plans have enabled the American Alligator and the Brown Pelican to recover and be removed from the endangered species list. Less than 40 recovery plans were completed prior to 1981, while this Administration plans to approve 30 recovery plans per year through 1989.
- O **The Bald Eagle.** In Arizona, The Interior Department has begun a four-year study of the bald eagle's ecology to learn more about population characteristics and feeding behavior. This study is another step toward the preservation of America's symbol of freedom. The Bald Eagle appears to be rebounding in recent years. In 1981, there were just over 1,400 known nesting pairs of bald eagles in 32 states. Today, there are over 2,000 known pairs in 36 states, excluding Alaska where the eagle population remains healthy.
- O **California Condor Recovery Effort.** The future of the severely endangered California Condor looks brighter, thanks to the recent conservation efforts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The last wild condor was captured in 1987 and has joined the remaining 27 condors protected in the San Diego and Los Angeles Zoos to begin a captive breeding program, which is designed to ensure the survival of the species and permit its eventual return to the wild. In addition, the Fish and

Wildlife Service acquired an 11,360-acre ranch, which will serve as the nucleus of the new Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge — the future release site for the condors. The goal of the California Condor program is to breed condor chicks in captivity and eventually release offspring to this new refuge and other suitable sites within the condor's natural range.

- O **California Sea Otters.** The California Sea Otter, a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1977, is further along the road to recovery after a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service program to establish a new sea otter colony. Up to 70 sea otters this year will be taken from the existing range in central California and released at San Nicolas Island off the southern California coast. A total of 250 otters may be relocated to the new colony in the next three to five years. Experts believe these otters will live on the island and become the founding members of a new breeding colony.
- O **The Masked Bobwhite Quail.** The Interior Department in February of 1985 authorized the \$9 million purchase of the Buenos Aires Ranch in Arizona to become home to the endangered Masked Bobwhite Quail. The ranch was believed to be the only available habitat for successful reintroduction. In the two years since reintroduction, there have been signs of success in the breeding area.
- O **Improved Conditions for Wildlife and Fisheries.** Antelope and elk are two examples of how conditions for some wildlife have improved during this Administration. In 1974, there were approximately 190,600 known antelope using habitat administered by the Bureau of Land Management. By 1986, that number had increased to 275,000 antelope. During the same period, the number of elk using public lands increased from nearly 96,000 to over 134,000. Lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management provide a home for one out of every five big game animals. The improvements are due to a governmentwide effort to restore habitat.

- **Federal Aid to Wildlife and Fish Restoration.** Since 1981, States have received over a billion dollars in federal aid funds for sport fish and wildlife restoration and hunter education through the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson programs.
- **The National Wildlife Refuge System.** Since 1981, 29 refuges in 21 States containing 530,185 acres have been added to the National Wildlife Refuge System.
- **Revised Responsibilities and Role of Federal Fisheries.** More than two years of intensive study and evaluation led the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1985 to revise its statement of national fisheries responsibilities and role. The four areas of responsibility now include: restoration of depleted and nationally significant fisheries; management of fisheries on federal and Indian tribal lands; mitigation of impaired fisheries due to federal water development projects; and federal leadership in scientifically-based management of national fishery resources.
- **Fisheries Restoration.** The Interior Department has begun a major fisheries restoration and improvement program, which includes the construction of fish hatcheries and other facilities in the Trinity and Sacramento River Basins of California. The hatcheries help to restock streams where fish were displaced by water projects.

Land and Resource Protection

- **Wilderness Areas.** The Interior Department has recommended that the President support the addition of approximately 2 million acres since 1981 to the National Wilderness Preservation System, increasing total wilderness acreage under Interior Department management from a little over 35 million in 1981 to over 37 million in 1987. This does not include an additional nearly 188,000 acres the National Park Service manages as wilderness, and has identified as suitable for Wilderness designation. The U.S. Forest Service has seen the largest increase during this Administration. It now manages 32 million acres of designated Wilderness compared to 25 million acres in 1981.

- **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.** This Administration has moved rapidly to protect an enormous amount of significant wildlife habitats, geological features and archaeological sites through a designation known as "Areas of Critical Environmental Concern." Of the 4.7 million acres that are considered ACEC's, the Reagan Administration is responsible for designating 4.6 million acres. The designation is an important move in the conservation of these vital resources.
- **National Water Quality Assessment.** The Interior Department began a project in 1986 that is the proving ground for the first effort in history to assess the quality of the entire nation's water supply. The full program of ground and surface water studies also will provide the baseline for evaluating changes in America's water quality for years to come.
- **Abandoned Coal Mines.** The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement joined the National Park Service this year to begin a five-year, million dollar plan to reclaim abandoned coal mines in our national parks. These were mines abandoned at or before the areas became national parks. This Administration has always supported the policy of not allowing mining in the national parks. It took that policy one step further by reclaiming mined land that has been added to the National Park System.
- **Developed a Strategic Resource Management Plan for the National Parks.** For the first time in the history of the National Park Service, this Administration recently conducted an assessment of the condition of the natural and cultural resources in the National Park System. Although data are still being analyzed, the assessment will result in a strategic resource management plan that enables the Park Service to provide the best resource protection possible.
- **Recreation Fees.** This Administration has significantly boosted research, interpretation, resource maintenance and resource protection in the National Park System through increased recreation fees. The Administration in 1987 requested

and was given authority to raise park entrance fees for the first time since 1972. It also received approval to begin collecting entrance fees in 71 additional parks. Of the National Park System's 339 units, 130 now charge entrance fees. The result has been fee collections in fiscal year 1987 of some \$41 million, most of which goes directly into resource management for our National Parks.

- **Take Pride in America.** The Interior Department spends a total of \$19 million per year to clean-up public lands. The U.S. Forest Service estimates it spends \$2.5 million per year to replace vandalized signs. It is estimated that between 80 and 90 percent of the prehistoric ruins in the Southwest have been vandalized. This Administration has launched the most integrated, national awareness campaign in history to encourage the wise use of our nation's natural and cultural resources. "Take Pride in America" is a public-private effort to get the public involved in the conservation and improvement of America's 700 million acres of public lands. The campaign is a partnership among nine federal agencies, 42 states, two U.S. territories and numerous private entities. Millions of Americans have heard the message and begun to fight abuses on our public lands. Many more were already caring for and improving our nation's resources.

Historic Preservation

- **Historic Preservation Tax Credit.** This Administration has proven that great things happen when the federal government gets out of the way and allows private initiative to blossom. During this Administration alone, nearly 14,000 historic preservation projects involving \$9.5 billion of private sector investment have participated in the tax credit, which is designed to promote preservation and reduce government interference. Over 80 percent of the projects generated by the tax credit have occurred under this Administration thanks to the President's support in 1981 for a generous increase in the size of the credit.

- **Anasazi Cultural Heritage Center.** The Interior Department will open the Anasazi Cultural Heritage Center in 1989 to interpret, study and preserve for future generations the archaeological collections of an ancient Indian culture which was one of the oldest civilizations in the Western Hemisphere. The Anasazi disappeared in 1300 A.D.

Recreation

- **Great Basin National Park.** This Administration supported the addition of the first national park to the National Park System since 1972 — the 75,000 acre Great Basin National Park in Nevada.
- **Hunting and Fishing.** Since 1981, over 85 National Wildlife Refuges have added or expanded hunting and fishing activities, thus expanding the recreational opportunities on our public lands.
- **Completed the Park Restoration and Improvement Program.** Virtually every park in the National Park Service was touched by this \$1 billion effort begun in 1982 to rehabilitate deteriorated and unsafe facilities. Significant improvements were made to water and sewer systems, overnight accommodations and the correction of health and safety problems.
- **Volunteer Program.** This Administration believes that citizen involvement with its National Parks and public lands is essential. As part of an Administration initiative in 1986 to encourage Americans to get involved with their national parks, 39,000 individuals volunteered millions of hours in 265 parks. This doesn't include the \$300 million Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island rehabilitation, fund-raising for which was organized entirely by the private sector. Thousands more have volunteered millions of hours on recreational lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management and in Fish and Wildlife Service.
- **Public Land Transfers.** This Administration consistently has operated on the premise that government is best when it is local. Consistent with that philosophy

has been the transfer of between 10,000 and 20,000 acres per year of public lands to state and local governments through patents and leases for use as parks or other public purposes.

- **Protection of the Right to Hunt.** The Interior Department argued and won a legal battle in which an anti-hunting group sought to halt hunting on 240 national wildlife refuges. The Administration believes experience shows that hunting and fishing is important to the management of refuges. A federal court sided with the Interior Department's position that refuge hunting has a long tradition that has the support of Congress and the financial support of hunters, who have paid for many of the refuges through licensing and stamp fees.
- **President's Commission on Americans Outdoors.** In 1985, President Reagan appointed the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors to examine recreational lands and resources as well as to look at the roles of federal, state, local and private entities in meeting America's future outdoor recreational needs. The Administration's efforts to encourage and strengthen the role of communities in meeting outdoor recreation needs were supported by the Commission's findings. Additionally, many of this Administration's recreation policies, accomplishments and initiatives were consistent with the Commission's objectives.